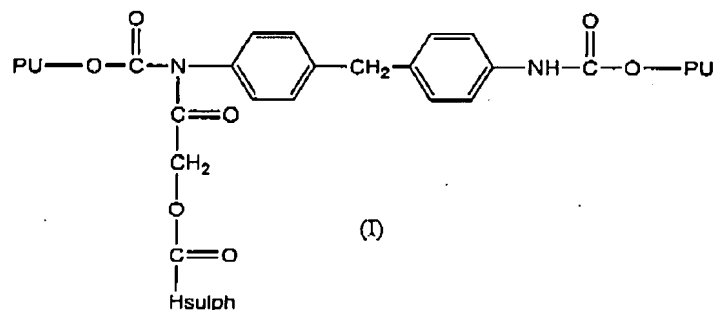


+

IN THE CLAIMS

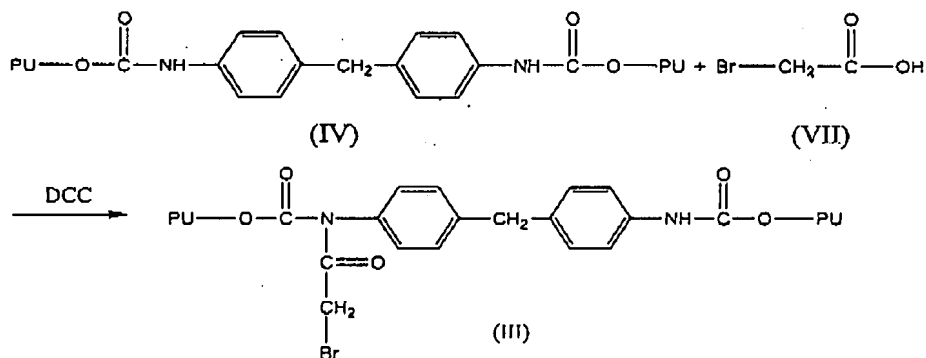
1-6 (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended): A process for preparing the polyurethane of formula (I)

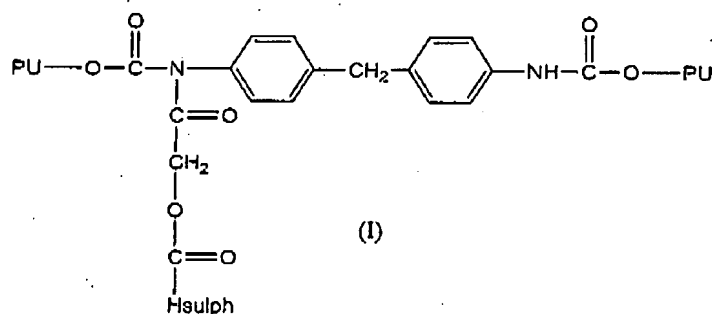


wherein PU is a residue of the polyurethane chain and Hsulph is a residue of an O-sulphated hyaluronic acid derivative containing at least one free carboxylic function ~~as defined in claim 6~~, [[-]]comprising the following steps:

i) the polyurethane (IV) is reacted with bromoacetic acid (VII) in the presence of N,N'-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC), to obtain the adduct of formula (III)



ii) the adduct (III) coming from step i) is reacted with $\text{HOOC}-\text{Hsulph}$, wherein Hsulph is defined as above, thereby obtaining the compound of formula (I)



8-38. (canceled)

39. (New) The process according to claim 7, wherein the hyaluronic acid derivative used to prepare the said O-sulphated hyaluronic acid derivative is selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) partial esters of hyaluronic acid containing at least one free carboxylic function and any remaining carboxylic function esterified with an aliphatic, aromatic, arylaliphatic, cycloaliphatic or heterocyclic alcohol;
- (b) partial crosslinked esters containing at least one free carboxylic function and any remaining carboxylic functions being esterified with an alcoholic function of the same hyaluronic acid molecule or of a different hyaluronic acid molecule; and
- (c) partial crosslinked esters containing at least one free carboxylic function reacted with an aliphatic, aromatic, arylaliphatic or heterocyclic polyalcohol, and wherein crosslinking is thereafter generated by means of spacer chains.

40 (New): The process according to claim 7, wherein the reaction in step i) is carried out in an inert atmosphere in dimethylformamide.

41 (New): The process according to claim 7, wherein the reaction mixture coming from step i) is filtered before carrying out step ii), to separate the solution containing the adduct (III) from the precipitate of dicyclohexylurea which forms simultaneously.

42 (New): The process according to claim 7, wherein step ii) is carried out in the presence of sodium bicarbonate.

43 (New): The process according to claim 7, wherein the reaction in step ii) is carried out in 24 hours at a temperature of 25°C.